

[REDACTED] YUGOSLAVIA: PRESIDENCY ROTATION THREATENED [REDACTED]

THE PEACE ACCORD BROKERED THIS WEEK BY THE FEDERAL PRESIDENCY IS BEING CRITICIZED FIERCELY IN CROATIA, WHERE BOMBINGS AND SHOOTINGS CONTINUE IN SERB-POPULATED AREAS. THE SERBIAN ASSEMBLY HAS PLEDGED TO PROTECT SERBS IN CROATIA AND ACCUSED CROATIAN LEADERS OF GENOCIDE. IN THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY, CROATIAN AND SLOVENE DELEGATIONS YESTERDAY BLOCKED ELECTION OF THREE PRO SERBIAN NOMINEES TO THE PRESIDENCY. ONE, A MONTENEGRIN, WAS TO BECOME VICE PRESIDENT, REPLACING CROATIA'S STIPE MESIC, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME PRESIDENT NEXT WEDNESDAY, REPLACING SERBIA'S BORISAV JOVIC. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE MANEUVERING OVER PRESIDENCY POSTS INCREASES THE CHANCE THE ROTATION WILL BREAK DOWN, FURTHER DAMAGING YUGOSLAVIA'S UNITY AND THE PROSPECTS FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION. SERBIA HAS ENOUGH VOTES TO BLOCK ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT AND PROBABLY WILL DO SO IF ITS NOMINEES REMAIN BLOCKED. JOVIC, A HARDLINER WHO HAS PLAYED AN INFLAMMATORY ROLE, MIGHT THEN TRY TO KEEP HIS POSITION WITH THE BACKING OF THE ARMY. THE FRAYING OF THE PEACE ACCORD AND RENEWED ETHNIC VIOLENCE WILL FURTHER FUEL THE LEADERSHIP CRISIS. [REDACTED]